

**Monday: 21/12/20**

Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation: The Gospel of Luke is viewed as scripture for the Gentiles. In it we see how Mary is the main protagonist or character. She is contacted and told of the special part she is to play in God's plan for our salvation.

To be honest the message is more than a little daunting for Mary. To have an Angel show up is one thing. To be told she would give birth to the Saviour is what people would say "Mind Blown".

We may look back now and marvel at the way she handled the encounter. Angels don't often make such appearances these days. I just wonder how we each would respond.

The Joy of expectation is the Joy of Life

**Tuesday: 22.12.20**

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph's dream: Joseph is about to get married. Like any man he would have a range of things to do to make sure the day and the future would be perfect. When he found out Mary was pregnant he was perplexed. Yet he was an man of honour. He planned to protect Mary from ridicule.

He too is given a message, within a dream, that the child within Mary is Holy and Special. He was told to follow through with the marriage, and to name the baby Jesus.

I pray to always do what is right

**Wednesday: 23.12.20**

Luke 1:39-56

Mary visits Elizabeth: We are told that Mary went to visit her closest relative Elizabeth. Who was also pregnant. As we know she has the baby John, as blessing for her and a herald for the coming of the Lord and Messiah. We're given a wonderful image of the moment Mary enters Elizabeth's home. We are told Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit when she heard Mary's voice.

As in the Gospel of Luke, we see it is the women within the narrative that take centre stage. They each reveal to us the tapestry of our Lord's arrival into the world. A tapestry woven with God's perfect Grace.

I pray for my family to know God's Grace

**Thursday: 24.12.20**

Luke 2:1-5

The census of Caesar Augustus: There has been a connection between God and the simple affairs of the world. When Caesar Augustus calls a census of the Roman world, we can see within this the way God directs the course of history to fulfil His divine plans.

As Joseph was of the lineage of David, he would be required to go to Bethlehem. Doing so fulfilled the Old testament prophesy as to where Jesus would be born. A truth that Caesar would not have known. In what ways can we see God moving in our life's.

I seek to see God at work in my life

**Friday: 25/12/20**

Luke 2:5-20

Shepherds visit the Baby Jesus: In this part of our journey we have gone on a journey with Joseph and Mary. Through the wilderness and onto the town of Bethlehem.

Arriving there we are told that the Inn's were all full. Yet one kind Inn Keeper took pity and let them stay in the area set aside for the animals.

We are told the first to greet baby Jesus are the shepherds. How appropriate that the Lord first makes contact with societies lowest members. As shepherds were not educated and tended to live on the outskirts of society. They exemplified the ones that Jesus was sent to save.

Praise the Lord who seeks the lost and lonely

**Saturday: 26/12/20**

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi visit: The Magi, also referred to as the Three Wise Men and Three The Kings, they had arrived several years after the birth. We know this because Matthew tells us they entered the 'house' where Jesus was living.

We tend to refer to them as 'three' as reference to the gifts given. The three gifts were, Gold for the Lords Kingship, Frankincense for his Priesthood and Myrrh for the Lords Sacrifice. Each of the gifts signified the journey our Lord would take. From the Cradle to the Cross.

I add my heart to these three gifts of love

## *Humble Blessings*



The World tells us we are born with privileges.  
To be able to demand and expect only the best.  
If we find ourselves short changed;  
Then scream even louder to get what you deserve.  
And life will be a bed of roses.

Yet in the humble birth of a baby born in a manger;  
We find the complete opposite of such expectations.  
We find a meek humility that defies arrogance.  
And speaks to us of vulnerability and need.  
In a meagre bed of straw and dreams.

The World tells us to be proud.  
Challenge any who would stand in our way.  
Demand accolades and rewards.  
We have made our own path that we tread.  
With a baton we run the race our way.

Yet in the life of Jesus we find a different path.  
One filled with obstacles and struggles.  
Challenging enemies looking for weakness.  
All the while the Lord stays focused.  
As he prepares the message to be handed on.

The World will say that we can wear Victory.  
An honour that is ours and ours alone.  
Nobody has done what we can do for us.  
As we step and trod on any who get in our way.  
We are told to grab the laurel of triumph.

*Continued*

Yet in the story of the shadow of the Cross;  
We see a different victory and reward.  
One that to this day defies the World.  
Where Victory is only found in defeat.  
And the crown of honour is a crown of thorns.

In the end the World will be left empty.  
Lost for all it's false hopes and schemes.  
At pains to understand the judgment;  
That will be given to those who followed it.  
And got lost in the web of lies and deceit.

While the Lord is truly triumphant in majesty.  
Returning to fulfil the Holy promise given.  
That any who should trust in his name:  
Shall find their heavenly rest in his love.  
For now and for ever.

MJ Flack

*Our Church Website*

<http://bowenfelspresbyterianparish.org.au>



*Affiliate Website*

*Benediction*

<http://benediction.org.au>

## **Six days to Sunday**



## **Stepping Stones**

### **of Faith**

### **20 11 23**

*We believe in the Bible over all of life  
and that Salvation is: In Christ alone,  
by Grace alone, through Faith alone.*